

**Leaving  
with no one  
behind**

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**Learning  
at Auschwitz,  
Birkenau**

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**Living  
in the  
past**

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# TRAINING TIMES

Vol. 26 No. 6

Serving the 100th Area Support Group communities of Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

March 29, 2005

## Newspapers enter period of transition

### 100TH ASG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Readers may notice changes in upcoming editions of the *Training Times*.

This issue marks the final time that *Stars & Stripes* will print the publication as a “commercial enterprise.” Under such an arrangement, a company agrees to produce a military newspaper at no cost to the government, defraying its own expenses by selling advertisements.

In a letter to Col. Richard Jung, 100th Area Support Group commander, dated Jan. 27, however, Thomas Biermann, general manager of *European Stars & Stripes*, informed him that such an arrangement was no longer economically feasible. After profit-and-loss analysis, he wrote, “a decision has been made to outsource the printing of *European Stars and Stripes*, as well as other publications currently printed at our Griesheim print site.” This included the *Herald Union*, newspaper for the 104th ASG, headquartered in Hanau, and the 6th ASG’s *Citizen*, based in Stuttgart.

“With the move to an outside commercial printer,” Biermann continued, “we will be charged a direct cost for printing the *Training Times* that is significantly higher than our current allocation. While *Stars & Stripes* offsets the expenses ... by selling advertising, we cannot absorb these additional costs.”

The number of local nationals who will be left unemployed by closing the plant at Griesheim, a suburb of Darmstadt, required the involvement of the German Works Council.

Most Army newspapers have become commercial enterprises, and according to Kathleen Gibbs, 100th ASG public affairs officer, the *Training Times* was in the vanguard of this movement in Europe.

“The Bible tells us ‘... the first shall be last,’ and with *Stripes*, that pretty much explains the way we have proceeded,” she said. “We were the first post newspaper in Europe to be printed under the commercial enterprise concept with a joint agreement between *European Stars & Stripes* and USAREUR Public Affairs, and we will be the last to give up our print relationship with them.”

Prior to the summer of 1999, she said, the *Training Times*’ production was financed by the Army – a significant outlay, given that 6,000 copies are printed biweekly. Roughly a third of those are inserted into *Stars & Stripes*

See *Transition*, page 5



Photo by Alice Adler

### Give it a try

Gerhard Jaeger grimaces as Muhammad Ali checks his flexibility – one of many assessments done during registration for the Civilian Fitness Program March 24 at Hohenfels’ post gym. Jaeger joined a host of local nationals and U.S. employees in taking the Department of the Army up on its offer: Get paid to get fit. Each week, enrollees are allowed three hours away from their desks to exercise. Those in Grafenwoehr may sign up at the field house March 30, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and March 31, 12 to 4 p.m.



# Q&A

Because a new season requires new things, 'Training Times' asked people, "What's your favorite thing to buy on the Internet?" as they picked up packages from the mail room.



**Christina Trainer**  
"Sports stuff, like karate clothes for my daughter"

**Barbara Petty**  
"I don't shop that much on the Internet. I like to have something in my hands."



**Spec. Tabitha Phelan**  
"Clothes and CDs"

**Sgt. 1st Class George Felty**  
"I leave that to my wife."



**Renee Slaughenhaupt**  
"Shoes!"

Interviews and photos by Alice Adler

# Victory won on home front

BY CHRISTOPHER KOLENDA  
1ST ID REAR DETACHMENT COMMANDER

I have never been more proud to be a Soldier than while serving my comrades, as well as their families and the civilians, of 1st Infantry Division – the Big Red One – as the commander of Task Force Victory. I want to thank all those who turned what could have been a very long year into one that, while difficult, was also very rewarding. When America called, our Soldiers in Task Force Danger answered, as did all those who support them: our incredible volunteers and families, our community professionals, and the outstanding Soldiers and civilians of Task Force Victory. I have been privileged to serve them. They defined these as times of great distinction, adventure, caring and compassion.

Our volunteers and families have been inspirational. Their stories of strength and courage will be told for decades to come, as people reflect on the impact they have made. Spouses of deployed Soldiers were left alone — many with children — to worry for the safety of their loved ones in Iraq. Those in rear detachments and garrisons often put their lives on hold while their Soldiers cared for everyone else, withstanding in graceful silence some unfortunate hostility or resentment that came their way.

Together they cared for our children, our communities and one another. They developed innovative programs and opportunities to give people something to live for in the present, rather than just

wait for the return of their Soldiers. Their kindness has given comfort to our wounded and injured Soldiers and to the grieving families of the fallen. When I think of their strength in adversity, their grace under pressure, their leadership in keeping hope alive in good times and in troublesome ones, I am filled with an inexpressible admiration. Their love and concern have been key to victory on the home front.

Our community professionals have risen to the occasion time and time again. The base support battalions and the area support groups stepped up their already world-class programs and made them even better and more family-friendly. Their responsiveness in fixing problems and adapting to a changed environment has exemplified organizational agility. Their perseverance in always hearing the complaints but never quite getting the compliments has been a study in service and leadership. The commanders and command sergeants major and their incredible teams have shown the Army how community operations in a deployed environment ought to be.

At the same time, the support from Department of Defense Dependents Schools has been unparalleled. Our teachers, staff

and administrators have delivered for our families, from increased counseling services and awareness, to flexibility in accommodating spring breaks and welcome ceremonies, to the high quality of education they provide daily to our children. This year would not

have been nearly as successful without their professionalism and partnership. Our medical and dental support has been superlative as well. In particular, we sincerely appreciate the service of the 348th Medical Detachment, an Army Reserve

unit who staffed our hospitals and clinics and provided expert care to wounded Soldiers in the Victory Ward of Wuerzburg hospital. These community professionals have given us a standard of living that is the envy of those deployed. I can't thank them enough for their dedication and service to the Big Red One, the Army and our country.

Finally, I want to thank the Soldiers and civilians of Task Force Victory who performed an arduous and often thankless mission to the highest standard ever. They watched their friends, comrades and leaders board planes for Iraq and longed to go with them. No one wanted to be left behind, but being true

See Victory, page 3

## HISSES

Hurrah to the filers at the JAG office tax center. They did such a great job on my return, were so nice, and I'm even getting a refund! I still can't believe it's a free service. To think that I once paid H&R Block to do it!

Anne Nelson  
Hohenfels

Hiss to drivers who rev their engines at people in crosswalks. I guess they think they deserve a "hurrah" just for not running

## AND

them down.

Nancy Wood  
Grafenwoehr

Hurrah to the staff of the Grafenwoehr Field House for hosting many activities outside the realm of sports and fitness. The most recent extracurricular events were two indoor Easter egg hunts: the first, for the families of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 100th Area Support Group, on March 17, and another — this

## HURRAHS

one featuring 1,000 eggs — for the community on March 19.

Ed.

+++++

Submissions to *Hisses and Hurrahs* should be sent via e-mail to the editor at cara.matlock@graf.eur.army.mil, or faxed to 475-7935. Please include a brief description of the episode, along with your name and community, a telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of the person you deem worthy of mention, if known. Identities of those to be censured or criticized should not be revealed. We wish to invoke only private shame, not public stonings.

## Training Times

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## 'Fill 'er up' urge AAFES sources

Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials announced last week that fuel prices would go up April 1.

Customers are encouraged to fill their tanks or purchase gasoline coupons by March 31 to offset the increase.

In Germany, AAFES prices will rise to \$2.19 per gallon for normal unleaded fuel, to \$2.284 for super unleaded, to \$2.374 for super plus and to \$2.348 for diesel.

According to the Department of Energy, the average U.S. price for regular unleaded fuel is 36.6 cents a gallon higher than this time last year.

With crude oil costs at record highs and gasoline consumption on the rise, OPEC reported that rising prices at the pump would continue.

The new overseas fuel prices will be constant through April 30.

## Victory

*Continued from page 2*

professionals, they seized upon this mission and, rather than cursing their fate, decided to show just how well home-front operations could be run. They have been magnificent. From supporting our Soldiers in Iraq to family readiness and assistance operations to professional development to redeployment and reintegration, they did it all and so much more. They accomplished what had been almost unthinkable: creating a culture of enthusiastic excellence in garrison operations. Their performance has set the Army standard; their leadership has cultivated high morale and cohesion. Our Soldiers know that what they are doing is important, they do it well, and they know they are appreciated. Despite all the examples of leadership under adversity, winning against all odds and accomplishing what others thought impossible while making it look easy, this one will be tough to beat. They fought the good fight and kept the faith. They finished the race. They were truly "combat multipliers" to our Soldiers in Iraq.

Together, all have strengthened our Army and our country. A volunteer force, particularly a predominantly married one, is tested by a protracted war. Our Soldiers are the best ever fielded. They can deploy and win the battles of the immediate future. Alone, however, they cannot win the war.

Without family support, Soldiers will vote with their feet and find places in civilian life. Troops and their families are not *in* the Army; they *are* the Army. Servicemembers do not go to war alone; their spouses and children go with them. In many ways, families hold the future of the military and America. The only way a volunteer Army will last in the long run is with the encouragement of those they hold dear.

Thanks to our volunteers and family readiness groups, our community professionals, and our rear detachments, the finest fighting force in history will remain so that much longer. From the bottom of my heart, I thank them all. They are an inspiration. It has been my pleasure and my honor to serve them.

## 'You're in the armor now'

# Soldiers rolling out stronger fleet

BY MASTER SGT. CORINE LOMBARDO  
42ND INFANTRY DIVISION

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DAN-GER, TIKRIT, IRAQ — Soldiers now deployed to Iraq are better equipped for the mission than their predecessors. In addition to full suits of body armor, including Kevlar helmets and eye protection that is superior and more plentiful than ever before, most Humvees have been reinforced to protect troops on the roads of Iraq.

The remaining few unarmored vehicles were transported from Kuwait to Iraq on flatbed trucks to avoid putting personnel in them.

Now they are used only within the well-protected operating bases, said Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, Task Force Liberty commander.

The vast majority of the fleet has armor protection, graded in three levels.

Level 1 Humvees are those produced at the factory with all the protective measures installed. These continue to arrive in theater and are issued to units as rapidly as they are received. About 1,200 such vehicles are currently available.

Level 2 provides much the same protection but comes as a kit through the Army supply chain. Logistics and maintenance

Soldiers make these additions daily to the remainder of their vehicles.

The frequently depicted Level 3 armor, consisting of welded metal plates, is designed to shield troops from fragments of improvised explosive devices, the most lethal weapons used against troops here. Although less effective against direct fire attacks, they are invaluable in protecting occupants against shrapnel and fragmentation from these detonations. Currently, more than 70 percent of Humvees used for combat patrols and combat-logistics patrols have level 1 or level 2 armor, and as the number of these vehicles increases, fewer third-tier models will be employed in operations.

The necessary armor was installed on all Humvees in Kuwait before they were moved north into Iraq.

Once there, commanders designated which vehicles would be sent out on daily patrols, either level 1 or level 2. Both are equipped with ballistic glass.

Soldiers in maintenance companies welded level 3 armor onto the vehicles. Assisting with this installation was Sgt. Niko Oliver, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Infantry Division, the command-and-control unit for Task Force Liberty. According to him, the armor saves lives.

"I feel 100 percent safer with [the armor on]," Oliver said. "It'll help keep our manpower intact. It means another Soldier looking out for Iraqi interests, another Soldier to keep Iraqis safe."

These reinforcements to Humvees should pave the way for improvements to the fleets of heavy Army trucks, those used for logistical movements throughout the zone of operations. Currently no level 1 protection exists for these vehicles, but the Department of the Army has introduced level 2 add-on armor to supplant the level 3 protection now in place. These kits are in the supply system, and as they arrive in North Central Iraq, maintenance and logistics Soldiers install them.

"I could not be more pleased with the performance of our logisticians in providing ... the best possible force protection of the fleet," said Taluto. "Even before this add-on armor program achieves its pinnacle, over 80 percent of our fleet of heavy trucks currently provide level 2 or level 3 armor protection for the crew."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Craig Gransbery

**A Soldier with the 94th Engineer Battalion, based in Vilseck, reinforces a truck door. The armor was added in Kuwait, where welders worked into the night for 10 days before the unit continued to Iraq in a fleet of "up armored" Humvees.**

## hail & farewell

An overview of staff changes around the 100th Area Support Group

### Farewell

- Two U.S. Army Reservists who have been assigned to the Vilseck Health Clinic will leave in April.

During her months there, Capt. Carrie Blanchard, a social work services counselor, worked closely with chaplains and leaders of family readiness groups to help the widows of fallen Soldiers.

Maj. Ann Hanincik, a nurse, served as case manager for wounded troops returning from Iraq.

- Staff Sgt. Peter Taylor, station manager of AFN Bavaria, will soon be leaving the military – and the Vilseck community – to pursue his master of business administration degree.

*Submissions to Hail and Farewell should be e-mailed to the editor at [cara.matlock@graf.eur.army.mil](mailto:cara.matlock@graf.eur.army.mil).*



A rug merchant shows his wares to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sheri Tew during an on-post bazaar in Hohenfels. At such events, vendors do not charge customers value-added tax, but outside the gates, authorized Soldiers and civilians may use forms to avoid paying this amount on a variety of goods and services.

File photo by Alice Adler



# Hohenfels' fears for PX unfounded

BY ALICE ADLER  
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

The word tore through Hohenfels like a forest fire: "Did you hear? They want to close the PX three days a week!"

This erroneous rumor stemmed from an electronically disseminated survey that, by asking which three days would be best for the Post Exchange to close each week, implied this plan was under consideration.

According to Matt Mennona, general manager of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service consolidated exchange, residents should rest easy. The survey that caused all the ruckus was misleading, and the main PX will not be closed three days a week. In reality, AAFES officials may decrease the days of operation at the PXtra and the furniture store, after surveys showed that furniture purchases in particular are usually joint family decisions, and therefore made mostly on weekends.

Mennona admitted that the main PX and the food court might be closed once a week — probably on Mondays — and on German holidays.

The reason is money. Over the past year, the number of Soldiers rotating through Hohenfels for training has dropped sharply because of deployments and the fact that some rotations are now done off post.

In addition, the declining dollar has taken a big bite out of food-court profits. Ingredients and other supplies must be purchased on the economy, and as the euro rate has risen, U.S. prices in AAFES eateries have remained the same.

Mennona said that another problem the company faces in Hohenfels is that it employs an unusually large number of local nationals: 67 percent of its workforce. LNs are expensive, he said, because of the high taxes, benefits and insurance required under German law. Moreover, when these employees work on one of their national holidays, AAFES must pay them higher overtime rates.

Mennona stressed these proposed curtailments were not simply about the bottom line.

"We hope that we will be able to raise the customer-service level at the same time," he said, explaining that employees normally in the PXtra or the furniture store would work in the main store when the other facilities were closed.

The combined Popeye's—Anthony's Pizza in Albertshof was shut in September at the request of Hohenfels officials who wish to contain the area for visiting troops. Indeed, as the rotation schedule becomes busier in the coming months, the gates

See PX, page 10

## Keep abreast of tax-relief rules

### GRAFENWOEHR VAT OFFICE

Because of changes to German value-added tax laws, military tax-relief offices can no longer process paperwork on purchases of kitchen furniture or major household renovation, including heating-system replacements. Only minor repairs and decoration projects — painting and hanging wallpaper, for example — are authorized.

VAT forms are available to U.S. servicemembers and the civilian component stationed overseas, so that they need not pay local sales taxes for personal items bought on the economy. Tax relief is a privilege granted by the German government under the Status of Forces Agreement. It is not a right, and merchants are not required to participate in the program.

Available from tax-relief offices on each post, VAT forms come in two denominations: NF-1 (under 2,500 euros, excluding firearms) and NF-2 (2,500 euros or more and firearms). Combining two NF-1s for a larger purchase is not permitted.

Personal purchases, including heating oil, propane tank refills,

hotel bills, car rentals, Internet service and prepaid mobile phones, are a few of the lesser-known things for which VAT forms may be used. They should be presented at the beginning of the transaction. Patrons should never return to a vendor with a form afterward in an attempt to recoup money.

A few things are not authorized tax relief: jewelry, gold coins, fine art, furs, houses, furnaces, new roofs, German automobile insurance and legal fees for real-estate transactions.

VAT forms are not for business purposes, meaning that the customer must not make money on any transaction.

Group purchases are allowed if every member of that group is eligible for tax relief. Those who are not must be listed on a separate invoice and pay VAT. Weddings are exceptions to this rule.

Americans who buy things for their Bavarian friends, neighbors and landlords may think themselves amateur diplomatists, but this practice is illegal. If such a transaction is discovered during

an audit, the German government will demand payment from the vendor, who, in turn, will call the tax office; eventually, the violator will be found and assessed the amount of tax owed. Again, tax relief is a privilege, and the German government has the authority to place further restrictions on the program or cancel it.

For this reason, military officials have established a "three strikes and you're out" rule; after one reprimand from the tax-relief office, a person's improper purchases will result in letters from the commander, the second of which will give notice of suspension. All forms are tracked, and irregularities are investigated by U.S. or German customs agents.

Eligible personnel may buy 10 or fewer NF-1 forms at a time. For purchases of 2,500 euros or more, a customer must present a *pro forma* invoice or cost estimate to acquire an NF-2 before the transaction has been completed.

For more information, call your tax-relief office by dialing your local prefix, followed by 1780.

Local news and information ... Your area weather forecast ... Up-to-the-minute road conditions ...

The newest hits and the best mix ...



## The big gun radio network

Grafenwoehr  
Vilseck  
Hohenfels  
Amberg

AM 1107  
AM 1107  
AM 1485

101.4 FM  
107.6 FM  
89.4 FM  
90.0 FM

[www.afneurope.net/Bavaria](http://www.afneurope.net/Bavaria)

# Transition

Continued from page 1

every other Tuesday; the remainder is delivered in bundles the following Thursday for distribution throughout the three communities.

Because of the difficulties involved with contract negotiations, the next few issues will be produced by *Stars & Stripes*' new printer at the government's expense. Because this arrangement will not be a commercial enterprise, no advertisements will

appear. To cut costs, these editions will decrease to 12 pages, and, rather than the usual full-color format, two-thirds of them will be black-and-white.

Gibbs assured that the search for a new printer was well under way, and said she believed the relationship with *Stars & Stripes* to have been "mutually beneficial."

Nicholas D'Amario, 100th ASG command information chief, is

heading the quest and looked on the severance as "a fresh opportunity." He also credited the regional contracting office for having lent its full support to the effort.

"Based on lessons learned," he said, "we will improve our ability to serve the communities' information needs."

D'Amario added that he was confident the "new partner will meet or exceed our expectations."

# Power rests with patient who executes living will

## GRAFENWOEHR LAW CENTER

A sensational case such as Terri Schiavo's can be avoided with legal documents that ensure one's intentions for medical treatment will be carried out even if one cannot later make them known.

In general, an adult patient of sound mind may consent to or refuse any health measure, including whether to receive or continue life-sustaining care. Difficulties arise when the patient's wishes are unclear. Although a few states permit family members to make such decisions on a patient's behalf without a written declaration, in most, spouses or parents must file a petition if a patient is unable to communicate. Going to court is time-consuming, expensive and often ineffectual. As a result, most states allow advance medical directives, or "living wills," as well as health-care powers of attorney.

Legal centers within the 100th Area Support Group can draft these documents.

A living will states one's desires for medical care in cases of terminal illness. To spare one's family the protracted misery and medical expenses of keeping one alive without reasonable hope of revival, a living will authorizes withholding or discontinuing treatment to sustain life when

physicians certify the condition irreversible. Hospitals and doctors generally must abide by the terms of a patient's living will, which, in turn, shields health-care providers from civil or criminal liability.

A health-care power of attorney appoints an agent to make medical decisions for one, such as refusing intravenous nourishment or artificial respiration in the event of brain death. It may also empower the agent to permit experimental surgery or committal to a nursing home. Such important matters should be discussed in advance with the agent, usually a spouse or other close relative, who should safeguard the original health-care power of attorney. A certified copy should be kept in the patient's medical records.

Because predicting every contingency in a living will would be impossible, some prefer a "comprehensive directive" — in effect, a living will and a health-care power of attorney combined — which may also state whether one wishes to be an organ donor.

Any of these documents may be revised or revoked whenever one chooses, even during a terminal illness, as long as one is mentally competent and follows state laws.

For more information, call the on-post legal center at 475-7114, 476-2289 or 466-2401.

# In brief

## Warrant officers sought

A warrant officer recruiting team from Fort Knox, Ky., will conduct briefings in two education centers of the 100th Area Support Group April 11: Vilseck, 10 a.m., building 223, and Grafenwoehr, 2 p.m., building 623N.

Interested personnel should complete an application, available at [www.usarec.army.mil/warrant](http://www.usarec.army.mil/warrant), and take it with them.

## Sato ups charges

Sato Travel offices will increase the amount of transaction fees from \$15 to \$49 April 1, because of changes in the airline industry. This will apply to reservations for official and leisure travel made in person or over the phone.

Those who use the Web-based system, at [www.satotravel.com](http://www.satotravel.com), will be charged \$15 for official arrangements and \$30 for personal ones.

The new fees will not be added to reservations for hotels, rental cars, trains or ferries.

## Halt on monthly bills

The German electricity company

EON will no longer send statements and transfer vouchers each month to residents in private rental quarters who have not set up monthly allotments.

On their yearly bills, customers will see future amounts with due dates. Those who fail to pay each on time will lose service.

For more information, contact your private rental office.

## More personnel services

Because the 38th Personnel Services Battalion will not conduct sergeants' time training again until June, all sections, including records, promotions and actions, will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays through May 26.

## New passport fees

A \$12 surcharge has been added to the cost of each U.S. tourist passport, formerly \$67 to \$97.

Applications on which oaths have been taken and the 38th PSB seal applied prior to March 8 need not include the additional fee.

This does not affect command-sponsored "no fee" passports.



# Single troops find family in unit, buddies, mission

BY SPEC. FRANCIS HORTON

363RD MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

As Soldiers of the 41st Transportation Company prepared to leave Vilseck March 2 for a second round of driving and fighting in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, families hugged, kissed and cried – the usual farewell fanfare.

In one corner of the Hilltop Fitness Center, however, a group of drivers napped on duffle bags, joked or quietly worked on their rucksacks. These were the single Soldiers, those who had no spouses, children or even close friends nearby.

Pfc. Larry Thomas is a bachelor without a child, parent or significant other to see him off. He lives in a barracks with his comrades.

Single Soldiers such as Thomas are often absent from the reports of departing and returning troops featured on the front pages of newspapers and in television reports. Thomas said that, although he was confident in his company's abilities, this deployment would have been completely different for him, had he a son or a daughter to worry about at home.

"This would be more difficult with family there," Thomas said, "but I'm doing an important duty, and that would make it easier."

It's a double-edged sword: While the private may not have a wife or girlfriend to kiss goodbye, neither must he feel the sting of leaving her behind. Many are not so lucky. Thomas said that one of his best friends was leaving his wife alone for a second time.

He outlined his plan to help him through the tougher times.

"I want to keep [my] mind on the mission as much as possible," he said. "It will make the deployment go faster."

He added that living close to his fellow Soldiers had kept his spirits high.

"I don't feel bad about this deployment," Thomas said. "I just want to come back with everyone I went down with. Living in the barracks, you learn to live with and trust everyone."

Because it was Thomas' second deployment to Iraq, he and other veterans of that war hoped to prepare the younger and less experienced ones as much as possible.

"We're trying to teach the others what to expect over there," he said.

Just because unmarried troops did not have the wrench of saying goodbye to loved ones at the ceremony, their absence didn't keep them from coming to mind.

"I think about my sister in Florida all of the time," said Sgt. Vanessa Kempf.

She expressed sympathy for those who were leaving their families behind and vowed to watch out for any other Soldier in trouble while deployed.

Spec. Isaiah Ward was headed for his second deployment as well, and just as Kempf, he said he knew how difficult the separation would be for his married friends and battle buddies and wanted to help get them through it.

"I'm going to try to keep my friends from living in a fantasy that will depress them," Ward said, "and help them keep perspective on the mission."

Some new Soldiers were worried about their first deployments, but said their fear was assuaged by their comrades' experience and confidence in their own readiness.

"We've trained in driving in [Iraq] and done convoy live-fire training," said Kempf.

Pvt. 2 Sibryan Deleon had been in the Army nine months — three with the 41st Trans. — but said he was keeping a cool head about the deployment.

"I'll worry about things as they come up," he said.

He admitted that he had begun tapping into all of the experience that surrounded him, though.

"I've asked other Soldiers how to adapt to the environment."

Deleon added that, had he a family, his feelings about going downrange would have been no different.

"I've always wanted to be in the military," he said. "My family would know we would be safe."

As the platoons of the 41st boarded their buses for the processing center, the single Soldiers never looked back.

"I'm not worried about this," Thomas said. "I know the Lord above will protect us."



Photo by Spec. Francis Horton

**Pfc. Larry Thomas, a bachelor deploying to Iraq with 41st Transportation Company, loads up his rucksack as other members of his unit say their goodbyes.**

## In brief

### Shoppette making move

The Grafenwoehr Shoppette will reopen at its new location – the PXtra – on April 1.

It will remain there until the 24-hour convenience store has been built (see next issue for full story).

### Hit musical closing soon

The Bavarian Arts Guild will end its run of *Chicago* with performances March 31 to April 2 in the Vilseck High School multipurpose room.

Doors will open at 7 each night, and the show will begin at 7:30.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students; euros are accepted based on the day's exchange rate.

### Bins going back

Extra recycling containers placed in the barracks and at the reintegration site to accommodate troops returning from Iraq will be removed April 6.

Soldiers – as well as family members and civilians – are strongly encouraged to sort their trash. The collection schedule in Vilseck is as follows: refuse and card-

board, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; paper and cans, Mondays; plastics, Wednesdays; and glass, every fourth Tuesday.

Bulky items, such as scrap metal, wood, furniture, electronics and tires, must be taken to the on-post recycling center. Hours are weekdays, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Protect yourself

A self-defense class for women will be taught every second Saturday of the month beginning April 9, 1 to 4 p.m., at Rose Barracks Fitness Center in Vilseck.

To register, call 476-2998.

### Changes, closures

- The Camp Normandy Dining Facility in Grafenwoehr has expanded its weekend and holiday breakfast hours, opening at 6 and closing at 9. The shuttle service has also changed to reflect these times, and new schedules have been posted.

- The 106th Finance Battalion office will close the afternoon of April 12 for a change of command.

## Maintenance, supply units procure awards

Three local units were recognized for maintenance-and-supply excellence during a U.S. Army Europe-level awards ceremony at the Village Pavilion in Heidelberg March 15.

Maintenance Activity Vilseck, General Support Center – Europe, was runner-up in the maintenance category for small table of distribution and allowances.

Supply Support Activity, Class III

Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants, Grafenwoehr, placed second among small supply support activities. Regional Supply Support Activity, 100th Area Support Group, was runner-up in the large division.



# Seminar shares Terra Nova tips

BY KATHY JORDAN  
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Terra Nova testing will start in Department of Defense Dependents Schools today and run through April 7. Makeup tests will be given at the high school April 1.

During a parental workshop in the Vilseck Elementary School library March 3, counselor Febbie Ramsey, as well as teachers and other school personnel, gave tips for helping students at home.

"We would like to get the parents to know some things they can do to get their children ready," Ramsey said. "We want

to make sure we at the school and the parents are on the same page when it comes to helping the children be prepared."

She said that, in addition to explaining the test procedures, such as not skipping questions and paying attention to time limits,

parents could do several things to make their children successful, such as giving them a dose of self-confidence.

"You have to help them have a good attitude about the test," said Ramsey.

Another presenter, school nurse Terry Crites, stressed that students should eat nutritious breakfasts and get to bed on time. As Ramsey said, "If their brains are rested, [they are] able to bring back all that information that they learned."

Computer teacher Priscilla Veto gave an overview of Terra Nova practice materials and demonstrated a Web site, [www.jc-schools.net/terranoval-res.htm](http://www.jc-schools.net/terranoval-res.htm), on which parents can take the test with their children. It also features games and techniques.

As Ramsey pointed out, "It is not just something you can use for testing. You can continue to use it for study skills after testing is over."

Lora Mehrer, school psychologist, talked about stress-reduction and suggested calming music to relax little minds.

Additional advice included setting alarm clocks, getting them to school promptly to avoid their feeling rushed, listening to their concerns at the end of each day, sticking to routines and planning fun early evening activities. Each child should also be encouraged to do his best and reminded that good results will follow.

The Terra Nova test, composed of reading, science, social studies, language arts and math portions,

is administered to third- through 11th-graders annually.

"I have been in education for over 20 years, and this test has been going on for longer than that," Ramsey said. "They used to call it the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills, CTBS, years ago; they are basically the same test."

She described it as a measuring tool, but was quick to add that it was not the sole gauge.

"It is not the only thing we use to measure a child's progress," she said. "While this test is important, we don't just use this one ... We

give local tests and other forms of testing ..."

Ramsey pointed out that such assessments were used throughout the nation.

"Tests are so important, because it gives us so much information about how children function," she said.

The results are also used to evaluate curricula.

"It helps teachers to know what objectives need to be met, and whether those objectives have been met," said Ramsey. "The testing helps us to know if we are going in the right direction, and if we are not going in the right direction, it helps us to go back in another direction."

Schools are not the only beneficiaries, however. The scores provide information to parents, so that they may work with their children on skills that may need fine-tuning or steer them toward an occupation that makes use of their talents.

"It gives parents a pathway to help the children in the direction they need to go and choosing careers and so forth," she said.

Standardized achievement tests have their critics, but according to Ramsey, they are an integral part of education.

"Testing is not going to go away," she said. "We are always using tests to help us make decisions in life. We try to get the children — especially at the elementary level — to learn how to be good test-takers. In comparing kids, it helps us to know if the kids are on target, which areas they are strong in and the areas where they need additional help."

Results from the 2004 Terra Nova have been posted at the Department of Defense Education Activity Web site, [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu).

For more information, contact your school counselor.

*If their brains are rested, [they are] able to bring back all that information that they learned.*

Febbie Ramsey  
VES counselor



Photo by Gerry Arbios

## Catbird seats

Schoolchildren in the 100th Area Support Group joined their stateside counterparts for the annual Read Across America event. In Hohenfels, Ronald McIntire (above), superintendent for Department of Defense Dependents Schools Bavaria district, wears the official headgear — the hat of the cat — to regale Jennifer Remoy's class of fifth- and sixth-graders with Dr. Seuss' *If I Ran the Circus*. Since 1998, celebrations have been held every March 2, the anniversary of the author's birth. For the centennial last year, more than 45 million people ate green eggs and ham and attended pajama parties to prove how much fun reading can be. 'Dr. Seuss' was the pen name of Theodor Seuss Geisel.

# Aim of AVID successful students

BY MELISSA KAHLER  
HOHENFELS JOURNALISM CLASS

College expectations hover over many students through their years of high school. For them, success is a constant struggle, and for some it seems an impossible goal.

Those privileged few who make up the academic elite have a virtual guarantee of acceptance letters, with their high standardized test scores, but what about the majority of students who are stuck in the middle? The latter are often overlooked and do not attract the attention of major universities.

AVID, which stands for "Advancement Via Individual Determination," is designed to aid students who have mediocre grades, but a strong academic work ethic and the desire to attend college. The program is overseen by a certified AVID instructor who pulls students

out of their average courses and places them in more challenging ones. To help them succeed, they are also enrolled in a one-period class that introduces them to such concepts as time management, organizational skills, good note-taking techniques and problem-solving strategies. The students have the opportunity to get assistance from tutors and peers as well.

Carol Sellers, the instructor for Hohenfels High School, teaches an assortment of grade levels in her class. According to her, all had shown academic improvement almost immediately, and its effects were lasting.

"The reward is long term," said Sellers. "Students hate me now for the notes, but in the long run, when they successfully enter college and graduate, they will then understand. To me, that is the greatest

satisfaction: seeing my former students graduate out of college."

Jessica Grazier, a sophomore and second-year AVID student at HHS, confirmed this, saying, "I think that AVID is a really good college prep class because of the notes we have to take."

Another second-year student, junior Lauren Mitchell, said she had seen the effects on her schoolwork. "My grades use to be low in certain classes," she explained, "but now, since being in AVID, my grades have greatly improved."

The program is available to fifth-through 12th-graders in 30 states and 15 countries. According to its Web site, more than 30,000 AVID students have graduated from high school and entered college — 95 percent of enrollees.

For more information, visit [www.avidonline.org](http://www.avidonline.org).

# Yearly youth employment pool opening soon

## CHRA — EUROPE

Teenagers and young adults ages 14 to 22 who wish to work this summer are encouraged to apply for the annual summer-hire program. The Civilian Human Resources Agency — Europe will accept applications March 31 to May 13. The employment period will run from June 27 through Aug. 5.

Positions for clerical work, manual labor and child care will be available, and wages have been set at \$5.14 per hour.

The program is open to unmarried family members of active-duty military personnel and

Department of Defense civilians. Those employed in Child Development Centers must be at least 16.

Vacancy announcements, the necessary forms and instructions will be posted online at [www.chra.eur.army.mil](http://www.chra.eur.army.mil) beginning March 31. Applications may also be submitted electronically to [Summerhire\\_Resumes@cpcour.army.mil](mailto:Summerhire_Resumes@cpcour.army.mil) or mailed to the following address:

**CHRA, CPOC Europe Region  
ATTN: Summer Hire Program  
Unit 29150  
APO, AE 09100**





# Inside Auschwitz

BY ALICE ADLER  
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

The Polish town Oswiecim has acquired infamy under its German name: Auschwitz. The Nazi concentration camp still stands, as does the nearby Birkenau extermination camp. This may seem a slim distinction, and indeed, despite the cruel wrought-iron signs, taunting that hard work would bring them freedom, many labored themselves to death in pursuit of this hollow promise. Nevertheless, the difference was chillingly calculated.

Because of their size, a visit to both will take an entire day. Arriving by train is perhaps the best way to reach Auschwitz, as the journey from Krakow's main station is a short one; moreover, this mode of transportation was employed to relocate all but a fraction of the Jewish populace.

Once in Oswiecim, take the short walk to the Auschwitz facility, in striking proximity to the residential area. Dwellings closely line the walls of both camps, hinting at the horror that locals must have felt over rumors of the atrocities inside.



Piles of (clockwise from above) shoes, pots, eyeglasses, and a tangle of crutches and wooden legs were seized.



Compared to the monstrosity of Birkenau, Auschwitz is relatively small, and many of the original buildings remain. Some are former barracks that now house monuments and exhibits, such as the massive collections of items taken from internees. Eyeglasses, pots and pans, shoes, suitcases — even crutches and wooden legs — were confiscated and shipped to Germany, where they were distributed among its citizens. Reclaimed after World War II, mind-boggling numbers of these objects have been piled into gigantic mounds. A particularly grim room contains ghastly heaps of hair, shorn from prisoners' heads and saved to make inexpensive cloth. One such bolt is on display. Few visitors, no matter how cynical, are unmoved, yet those who assume this evidence of inhumanity could not be outstripped would be wrong.

A walk across town leads you to Birkenau, also known as Auschwitz II. Those incarcerated here had been classified as unfit to work and were therefore to be exterminated as quickly as possible. Millions fell into this category, and the camp conceived to accomplish this end sprawls over 175 hectares. Just covering its grounds can take hours. Built to accommodate as many as 200,000



Train tracks lead into Birkenau death camp (far left), and a fence studded with guard towers surrounds it (left). This facility lies across the notorious town (known by its German name) from the work camp the Nazis also located there: Auschwitz.

Photos by Alice Adler

The crematorium of a gas chamber at Birkenau (right) lies in ruins.



victims at a time, it comprised more than 300 barracks and four gas chambers. Fleeing Nazis managed to destroy most of it in an attempt to conceal their war crimes, but the rubble has been left undisturbed as a memorial to the dead. Each of the vast human ovens was designed to hold 2,000 bodies, which were transported inside by electric elevators, and they are sobering, despite their ruined state.

Some find it strange that, decades later, people return to the sites of such terrible death, but that is precisely the purpose of keeping them open to the public: ensuring that the world never forgets what happened here.

Auschwitz is enclosed by barbed wire and posted with signs warning of the dangerously high voltage.



A visitor walks beneath the sign that once assured prisoners at Auschwitz, "Arbeit macht frei" or "work liberates." A number of them died hoping to be freed in reward for their toil.



## In brief

### In memoriam

Olga Matuskey died last week at Walter Reed Army Hospital after a long illness.

Because her husband, Ray, and their family incurred significant medical debt as a result, a Community Bank account has been established to assist with bills.

Those who wish to contribute should use blank deposit slips and fill in the following information: Olga Matuskey Foundation Fund, account number 3681101435.

This account will remain open for 90 days.

### Monthly forum

The next community information exchange and town-hall meeting will be held March 30, 1 p.m., at the Community Activities Center.

### Wanted: cowboys, cowgirls

Wild West Night, the biggest community fund-raiser of the year, is set for April 23, 6 p.m. to midnight, at The Zone.

To volunteer, visit the Hohenfels Community and Spouses' Club Web site, [www.cso-hohenfels.org](http://www.cso-hohenfels.org).

Tickets are \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance from Tammy Bagdasarian, 09472-911787 or [tammybagdasarian@hotmail.com](mailto:tammybagdasarian@hotmail.com).

### Buyers' market

The Community Activities Center will host the annual Hohenfels Spring Bazaar: April 15, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; April 16, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.;

and April 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vendors from throughout Europe will sell a variety of goods, including wines, cheeses, jewelry, clothing, shoes, rugs, china, paintings, toys and souvenirs.

Call 466-2670 for details.

### Party for progeny

Child and Youth Services will join other on-post organizations to celebrate the Month of the Military Child with their annual Hohenfels Kids' Fest, April 2, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the elementary school.

The event will feature a variety of free activities for children, such as face-painting, balloons, carnival games, a cakewalk, piñatas, a dunking booth, arts and crafts, and seed-planting.

For information, call 466-2078.

### Closures, changes

- Gate 3 (Schmidmuehlen) will be closed through April 4.

- Because of construction at gate 1, the outbound lane will be closed April 4 to 22. During this time, the inbound lane will be open, and gate 2 may be used as an exit only.

- The 282nd Base Support Battalion S-2 will provide limited services on Thursdays, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., until the end of April. In- and out-processing, fingerprinting, and all security clearance actions should be scheduled on other days of the week.

# Local teens get head start on life

BY CHRIS CAVANAUGH  
HOHENFELS JOURNALISM CLASS

Teenagers often see eye-catching items at the Post Exchange or the mall, yet they know they should save money for college. They desire the kind of independence that can only be acquired through financial stability — or at least a state in which they don't have to beg their parents for money each time they go to the movies or the food court.

Those in the Hohenfels community have a small variety of jobs from which to choose, but these can help pave the road to monetary freedom.

One option is an unpaid position bagging groceries at the commissary. Baggers work for tips only and must also take carts to customers' cars and make double-layered sacks while waiting for their turns. Those willing to bag sign up on a list, and as people are hired from it, their names are scratched off. Patience is the key, as this may take time. Once it does, baggers are required to pay their supervisor \$5 for sacks and other things needed for the workplace. Most of the time, they are allowed to work two days a week.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has positions at Burger King, Four Seasons and the PX.

Pat Busby, a student at



Photo by Chris Cavanaugh

**Jamal Green, a senior at Hohenfels High School, bags items for tips at the local commissary, while junior Christina Bledsoe (in background, right) does the same for her own customers.**

Hohenfels High School, worked at Burger King.

"It taught me how to handle money, be very time-organized, and it gave me a great deal of respect for others," he said. "In many ways, it was exciting for me, because it allowed me to grow as a young man, not only as myself, but in my community. But, of course, everything has its ups and downs. After a while, the excitement dies down, and the fun disappears."

Teens can apply for an AAFES job at the human-resources office. For a position at the commissary, see the head bagger. The minimum age for either is 16.

*Editor's note: Designed to provide young people ages 14 to 22 with job experience in their chosen field, the annual summer-hire program will accept applications starting March 31. See the article on page 7 for more information.*

## PX

Continued from page 4

around it will be blocked more often, effectively sealing it off for training purposes.

Local residents expressed concern that, with no food court in the area, troops on rotation would have fewer choices for lunch if the main PX were closed, thus aggravating the midday meal crush. But Mennona assured that during periods of training, the food court would stay open seven days a week. He also said that food vans of the German *Imbiss* model have been contracted to serve Soldiers within Albertshof.

Another option for lunch has already opened: the new Robin Hood Sandwich Shop in the Shoppette area of Warrior Hill. The location was chosen to be convenient for the majority of military personnel on Hohenfels.

"It's nice not to have to go all the way to the PX," said Sgt. Samuel Vass.

Monica Mlodyschewske, Robin Hood manager, said business had been steady, with a noticeable rise during rotations, and that customers had seemed pleased.

"We make everything fresh here," she said. "We bake bread

every morning. People really like it."

Spec. Russell Miller was one such patron. "It's something different, a little more variety," he said.

Another, Staff Sgt. Larry Slone, said it was better for him than a burger and fries. "It's healthier than the other things I like to eat."

Mennona described more local changes that were in the works but further in the future.

"There is a Mini Mall project that goes before the planning board in early '06," he said.

Located across from headquarters, this building will incorporate many of the stores on Warrior Hill, such as the Shoppette and some of the concessionaires. Mennona said he hoped it would have a Burger King with a drive-through window as well. If that restaurant were moved into the Mini Mall, its current location might house a Charley's Steakery.

Finally, refurbishments have been scheduled for some of the smaller facilities on Hohenfels, such as the Car Care Center and the Warrior Hill Shoppette.

*In the next issue: Breaking ground in Grafenwoehr*





Field of tulips in Holland

#### Libraries

- Holland, home of Keukenhof Gardens' vast acres of tulip fields, will be featured during the Grafenwoehr Library's next cultural morning, April 19, 10 to 11. The free event will give an overview of the country's history, language and sights (see also *Trips and Tours*, below).

- National Library Week is April 10 to 16. To celebrate, Vilseck will host a library race at 3 p.m. April 13, and Grafenwoehr will hold an open house all day on April 14. In Hohenfels, two contests – poetry and pet photos – will be under way. For more information, call 475-6231, 476-1740 or 466-1740.

#### Army Community Service Grafenwoehr and Vilseck

- The next Welcome to Bavaria is set for April 4 to 8. Learn about on-post agencies, pick up a bit of German, tour local towns and have lunch in a German *Gasthaus*.

### Escape hatch

Easter may be over, but because unseasonably late snow postponed the bedecking of many *Osterbrunnen*, or "Easter fountains," this is the perfect time to see them. Vilseck Army Community Service will take a tour of the famous Franconian displays March 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 476-2650 to sign up. Alternatively, plot your own route from one of several on the city of Pottenstein's Web site. Visit [www.stadt.pottenstein.de/tourenostern.php](http://www.stadt.pottenstein.de/tourenostern.php) for a complete list.

Photo by Cara Matlock



Register by calling 476-8650.

- Training to become an Army Family Team Building instructor will be offered April 12 to 14, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Those interested should call 476-2797.

#### Hohenfels

Parents can get stress-reduction tips April 1, 1 to 2 p.m. Learn to manage money April 4, 1 to 3 p.m. Preparation of federal resumes will be the focus of a class April 6, 9 to 11 a.m. Get an overview of the Thrift Savings Plan April 6, 12 to 1 p.m. To sign up for any of the

above, call 466-2861/2081.

#### Arts and Crafts Centers Grafenwoehr

The next quilting project will make a covering of cozy chenille, April 2 and 9, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The fee is \$15, not including supplies. Register by calling 475-6101.

#### Vilseck

Children aged 8 and up will compile their favorite photos in scrapbooks April 7. The \$7.50 fee does not include supplies. To sign up, call 476-2652.

#### Hohenfels

The center will be closed for inventory through April 1, reopening at 10 a.m. April 2.



Strutting peacock in Prague

#### Trips and Tours

##### Grafenwoehr and Vilseck

- Take a day trip to Prague April 3. The fee is \$39 for adults and \$29 for children 3 to 12. Deadline to sign up is March 30, and passports are required.
- See the sights of Berlin April 9. The fee is \$49 for adults and \$39 for children 3 to 12. Register by April 7.
- Shop for pottery in Poland at factories, shops and flea markets April 16. Passports are required, and the \$49 fee must be paid by April 14.
- Stroll around the walled city of Rothenburg ob der Tauber (see photo, below) April 17. The fee is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 3 to 12. Sign up by April 14.
- Spend April 23 in beautifully restored Dresden. Visit the vast Zwinger art museum, take an English tour of the palace or shop the marketplace. The fee is \$39 for adults and \$29 for children 3 to 12. Register by April 21.
- Take time to see the tulips – more than 7 million of them – in Holland's Keukenhof Gardens April 30. This express trip will also

include a few hours in Amsterdam for a tour of Anne Frank's house or a canal ride. The fee of \$65 for adults and \$50 for children 3 to 12 includes garden admission.

Deadline to register is April 28 (see also *Libraries*, top).

For more information about any of the above excursions, call Information, Tickets and Reservations at 475-7402 or 476-2295.

- Go on the season's final ski trip to Ischgl, Austria, April 8 to 10. The \$179 fee includes two nights' accommodation, two breakfasts and one dinner. Call Outdoor Recreation at 475-7402 or 476-2563 to register.

- The Equal Opportunity office will sponsor a trip to Dachau concentration camp April 23. The bus will depart from the Vilseck Post Exchange parking lot at 7:30 a.m. This free ride is open to community members age 12 and over. Participants should bring lunch money. To reserve a seat, call 476-2292/7215/8038 by 11:30 a.m. April 21.

#### Hohenfels

- Travel to Bochum for a day at Warner Brothers Movie World April 9. The fee is \$40.
- Visit the Dachau concentration camp and the world's largest technological museum, located in Munich, April 16. The fee is \$30. Call ITR at 466-2060 to sign up.



Red rooftops in Rothenburg





Photo by Gaby Muller

Vilseck Celtics are (left to right, front row) Giovante Hyman, Destiny Mitchell, Shamyra Coleman, Andrew Konigsfeld, Robert Hayes (back row) Bill Coleman, Alishea Buckley, Robert McNelly, Shean Singletary, Cameron Tucker and Kevin Sheppard.

# Celtics bid coaches farewell as 100th ASG junior champs

**BY MATT MENNONA**  
CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES SPORTS

The Vilseck Celtics entered the 100th Area Support Group Junior Basketball Tournament March 5 and 6 as the No. 2 seed, but finished as champions. Their victory was a great send-off for their coaches, Bill Coleman and Kevin Sheppard, both Soldiers who would deploy to Iraq with the 41st Transportation Company March 7. Knowing the championship would be their last opportunity to play with their coaches on the bench beside them, the Celtics opened with a nail-biting 30-27 victory over the Hohenfels Timberwolves. Their next game was a more convincing 37-27 victory over the Hohenfels Knights. Finally, they finished off the Hohenfels Timberwolves 40-29

in a rematch to take the title. After saying goodbye to Coleman and Sheppard, the team traveled to Mannheim to play in the U.S. Forces Junior Basketball Championship March 11. Without their coaches' guidance, they had a hard time getting on track in their opening game, which they lost to Heidelberg, but turned things around in the next with a commanding 25-point victory over the home team. In their third game, they suffered a tough loss to Schinnen, Netherlands, who defeated them by one point in overtime to end the Celtics' season. Coleman and Sheppard, though unable to make the trip, seemed to have been with their team in spirit, inspiring them to remember their training and put it into practice on the court.

# Local skiers, boarders place

The U.S. Forces Europe Ski and Snowboard Championships were held March 12 and 13 in Garmisch. Finishers from the 100th Area Support Group were as follows:

**Snowboard, giant slalom,** *Combined girls*, fifth place, Sarah Dinsmore (Hohenfels); *minor girls*, fifth place, Sophia Cressler (Vilseck); *junior girls*, fifth place, Anna Cressler (Vilseck); *senior boys*, fifth place, Phillip Cressler (Vilseck); *combined men's masters*, second place, Jack Givens (Hohenfels); fourth, Steven Eckert (Grafenwoehr); *combined men's seniors*, third, Jason Morneault (Hohenfels);

**Slalom,** *junior girls*, third place, Anna Cressler; *junior boys*, fifth place, Lucas Cressler (Vilseck); *senior boys*, second place, Phillip Cressler; third, Joshua Dickson (Vilseck); *women's civilian masters*, second place, Susan Biegeleisen (Hohenfels); *men's civilian masters*, second place, Gerry Biegeleisen (Hohenfels); fourth, Bill Dickson (Vilseck); fifth, John Macaras (Vilseck); *women's civilian seniors*, fourth place, Reyine Cressler (Vilseck); *women's military combined*, first place, Debbie Dickson (Vilseck); *men's military open*, second place, Chad Klascius (Hohenfels);

**Ski giant slalom,** *women's civilian masters*, third place, Biegeleisen; *men's civilian masters*, second place, Macaras; fifth, Biegeleisen; *women's military combined*, first place, Dickson; second, Ruth Givens (Hohenfels); *men's military open*, fifth, Klascius.



# Band of merry-makers delights in bygone age

BY MARK IACAMPO  
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Chivalry is not dead — at least according to a group of Girl Scouts who invited armor-sheathed knights to battle each other with wooden swords during their Renaissance faire at Hohenfels Elementary School in January.

These knights belong to an international medieval-reenactment group and represent the local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism, which boasts some 40,000 members worldwide.

"An 'anachronism' is something that's out of place in time," explained Hohenfels Elementary teacher Kathryn Iacampo, "and many of the things we practice are things no longer being done. Basically, for any art or science practiced in the Middle Ages, you can find someone in our group who is recreating it."

Examples include brewing, calligraphy, illumination, blacksmithing and dressmaking, but one of their most dramatic pursuits is armored combat.

"The weapons are made of rattan," said Dave Willhoite, a substitute teacher in Vilseck. "Rattan is a soft wood that flexes upon impact, so the force of the blow is lessened. Add to that the fact that we are wearing armor meant to protect people against steel swords, and you have a pretty safe sport."

Within the group, fights comprise one-on-one bouts and multitiered tournaments, which range from half a dozen combatants to several thousands. An elaborate set of rules minimizes their risk of injury.

"Every year I go to Pennsylvania and live in a tent with 14,000 of my closest friends," Willhoite said, referring to the annual Pennsic War, the society's premiere conclave. For two weeks every August, members gather to discuss their latest findings, teach or learn medieval arts and crafts, and, of course, fight. "There are participants from all over the world who save all their vacation time just for this event. This year is the 35th anniversary, and it just gets bigger every year."

For the massive battles at such meets, out come the big guns, including siege engines (such as catapults) cannons and "ballistas," or giant crossbows.

Though the combat looks fierce, injuries on the field are rare.

"Every now and then, someone breaks a finger or twists an ankle," Willhoite admitted, "but mostly you just get bruises. All in all, it's a lot safer than football."

"I first heard about the SCA in an article by fantasy author Poul Anderson. I thought it sounded heftily cool," said local national Elmar Vogt, adding with a laugh, "but, of course, in serious



Photos by Alice Adler

**Grafenwoehr correspondent Mark Iacampo fights Dave Willhoite, who normally substitutes as a teacher in Vilseck, during a Renaissance faire at Hohenfels Elementary School in January. Both are members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a medieval reenactment group.**

Germany, such a thing could never take root."

It has taken root, however, and now has branches across Europe, some connected with military communities. The 40-year-old club reached overseas primarily through the U.S. Armed Forces but now has chapters all over Europe, Israel and South Africa.

The scope of their scholarship runs roughly from the fall of the Roman Empire to the rise of the Renaissance.

"This is one of the things that sets us apart from other reenactment groups," explained Lt. Col. Jeffrey Smith, who works at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels. "In most European organizations, everyone studies the same time period, and it is usually quite a narrow focus. For instance, some groups only do the Wars of the Roses, which is approximately a 30-year period."

"In the SCA, we have people portraying 9th-century Vikings standing right next to a 14th-century English archer playing chess with an Elizabethan noblewoman," Smith continued. "It can create a disparate imagine sometimes, but it insures that everyone has a place to play, and it has attributed to making the SCA the largest reenactment group in the world."

Daniela Kiefhaber of Munich agreed. "Some living-history groups are just too uptight," she said. "They are so concerned that everyone has the proper buttons or spoons or such that they

forget to have any fun."

That fun takes the form of parties, tournaments and feasts, always with a medieval flair.

"Sometimes the main dishes will have been researched and prepared from an actual medieval recipe," said Iacampo. "So you'll have guests eating mutton stew, cherry pottage or meat pasties and washing it down with home-brewed mead or mulled ale." Banqueters often entertain one another by dancing, juggling, singing or telling stories.

As part of a nonprofit educational organization, members also give demonstrations and seminars at schools, fairs and festivals. They are a motley crew, from dockworkers to doctors, who have joined for a variety of reasons. Some are drawn by the combat, others by the ornate gowns and the elaborate pageantry, but most share a deep yet whimsical interest in history.

"The diversity within the group — the people it consists of — is one of my favorite aspects of the SCA," said Nuremberg native Doris Rubruck. "I enjoy meeting people from so many different countries and hanging out around campfires at night with a couple of good friends."

Vogt said that the society attracted enthusiasts "from all corners of the world. I've housed visitors from Canada and Australia and have been a guest in Finland. I have had the opportunity to meet a number of Americans, not while being a tourist, but

over a beer after fighter practice or at a campfire, and it has given me a tremendous insight into their culture and mind-set."

In return, Americans get exceptional occasions to delve into Europe, its present as well as its past.

"I think back to all the times when we have gone into a castle and spent the weekend there, living as medieval lords and ladies, fighting in tournaments," said Smith, who has been participating since 1976. "Compare that to paying 3 euros for a 30-minute, whizbang tour of the same castle."

"As a military-history student, I can tell you firsthand what it's like to swing a sword or mace against an enemy who is trying to kill me with his weapon," he continued. "I can talk to you about team tactics in the medieval era — what works and what doesn't — from personal experience."

Willhoite, or "The Minstrel," as he has been dubbed by fellow members, described his less pragmatic interests. "I play music, drink beer, flirt with girls and swing a sword," he joked. "Sometimes, I even do medieval crafts, but mostly I just like to go full-contact with weapons."

He was quick to dismiss any notions that his hobby might be strange.

"Hey, some people out in the world inject their bodies with weird chemicals," he pointed out. "I've just always wanted to be a knight in shining armor: My hobby is pretty benign."

"Basically," he concluded with a grin, "we're just a bunch of kids who never grew up."

For more information about the society, send an e-mail to [chatelain@drachenwald.sca.org](mailto:chatelain@drachenwald.sca.org) or visit [www.scademo.com](http://www.scademo.com).



**Lt. Col. Jeffrey Smith, Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, speaks to children, his head encased in chain mail.**



# Local folk favor customary garb

BY MARTINA BIAS

SPECIAL TO TRAINING TIMES

If you ask Americans who have never been to this country what a German looks like, they might well describe a man clad in lederhosen and a woman dressed in a dirndl. A more seasoned traveler might scoff at such a provincial response – until he realized that, to a surprising extent, this is still the case, especially in Bavaria.

Although the citizens of many European countries don folk costumes for festivals and the like, many Bavarians make *Trachten* (the German word for traditional clothes) part of their everyday wardrobes. The chief reason for this is, quite simply, a deep love for their region. Bavarians are very proud of their heritage. You may have noticed, driving into Germany from the south, that the first sign welcomes you to *Freistaat Bayern*, or the “Free State of Bavaria” (note that “Bavaria” is the Latin, rather than the German, word for this area). A few meters on, a second sign duly informs that you have entered Germany. People from this part of the country are Bavarians first, Germans second.

The designation “free state” is not mere bombast, for Bavaria has certain rights under national law. When the government mandated that the Christian cross be removed from classrooms, for example,

*Bayern* invoked its free-state privilege and kept its religious symbols on the walls.

To put this in perspective for Americans, Bavarians might be compared to Texans: Residents of each state feel they could easily break off and form their own country, yet they stay with the rest of the union out of kindness.

To display this pride in their roots, some Bavarian men sport lederhosen, or leather shorts with suspenders, on special occasions, with a white or beige shirt embroidered with deer, goats, or sprigs of edelweiss. Completing this look is a felted wool hat stuck with a *Gamsbart*, literally “mountain goat beard,” but loosely, a thick brush made from some type of animal hair.

These hats are also seen daily, worn with those distinctly regional jackets (often collarless) sewn from “loden,” a heavy woolen fabric most commonly woven in various shades of green. Other contemporary versions of masculine clothing include loden trousers, suits of soft leathers, corduroy and — for summer — linen and lightweight cotton, as well as vests of the same material, in the favored hues of green,

beige or brown.

Bavarian women still wear their dirndls. In English, this word usually denotes only the full skirt, but in Germany, it refers to the whole ensemble, including a top worn over a blouse and a colorful apron. Originally, the dirndl was the uniform of female servants, but in the late 19th century, after Kaiser Franz Joseph made it fashionable

dress for ladies, the upper classes adopted it.

Today the fabrics, colors and cuts have become increasingly subject to stylistic influences, and although ornate metal buttons or those hewn from antlers

remain the preferred closures, dirndls are now sold as two-piece models, with or without aprons.

Many department stores house whole *Trachten* departments for men, women and children; the more modern styles are called “*Landhausstil*,” or “country house style.”

This cultural reverence should not be interpreted as backward behavior by unsophisticated rustics, however; Bavaria is the richest state in Germany, and its citizens are thoroughly modern. They may be proud, but custom alone would not

keep them in the apparel of their ancestors, were these clothes not also practical and comfortable.

Loden is very durable and warm, perfect for the outdoors and able to weather a German winter. It repels moisture and doesn’t soil easily. The pliable leathers, as well as the other materials used in the men’s pieces, are generously cut and last for years, if not decades.

Dirndls are worn by women of every age and size. They are designed to accentuate the female figure, emphasizing its curves with the tight bodice, cinched waistband and the gathered, flowing skirt (which conceals any perceived flaws, such as “mother hips”). This silhouette flatters all variations of the feminine form, from slender to Rubenesque.

Finally, *Trachten* may be worn as casual or formal attire, depending on the fabrics from which it is made. For the latter, a man might choose a richly patterned vest for his suit, while a woman’s dirndl could be a beautiful creation of fine lace and jeweled-toned silk taffeta.

Traditional Bavarian clothing has a reputation among those who appreciate timeless, well-made garments, and in America, imitations and imports abound.

Now is your chance to buy the real thing.



# Onion tart offers traditional Germanic taste

BY MARTINA BIAS

SPECIAL TO TRAINING TIMES

*Zwiebelkuchen*, or “onion cake,” is popular in many parts of Germany, as well as Alsace, France. In some regions, it is similar to a pizza, covered with a generous layer of slivered onions and little else; in others, it is closer to a quiche, with a crust of either pastry or yeast dough and a filling bound with eggs.

The following version, a specialty of Swabia, consists of a yeasted base topped with a savory mixture of onions and bacon. In the fall, when grapes are harvested, it is often featured at wine festivals with glasses of *Most* (known locally as “*Federweisser*,” a sweet, still-fermenting wine). It is a deliciously simple dish throughout the year, however, that may be served at the beginning of a meal, for a snack or as the main course after a bowl of soup, for example.

When they are in season, Vidalia onions are excellent choices to use, as are other sweet varieties. For a little change, use leeks and cream to make a colorful *Lauchkuchen*. Both recipes, each for 12 to 18 portions, are given below. To bake a larger one in a jelly-roll pan (as most Germans would), simply double all the quantities.

The tart is best eaten slightly warm, but it will be good hot or even cold.

*Guten Appetit!*

## *Zwiebelkuchen*

### Crust

2 cups flour  
2/3 cup warm (110 F to 115 F) milk  
2 teaspoons active dry yeast  
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened  
1/8 teaspoon salt



Photo by Cara Matlock

***Zwiebelkuchen*, or “German onion cake,” can be served hot, warm or even cold, making it fabulous picnic fare. It is the perfect accompaniment to a glass of *Federweisser*, but when that is not in season, Silvaner is a good pick.**

### Filling

4 medium onions, thinly sliced  
4 slices bacon, chopped  
1/2 cup sour cream  
2 eggs

1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 teaspoons caraway seeds

Measure flour into bowl and make a well in middle. Pour warm milk into indentation.

Sprinkle yeast on top of milk and let sit 10 minutes. Add butter and salt and mix to form dough. Knead until all ingredients (especially butter) are well-distributed and dough is soft. Form into ball and place in greased bowl. Cover and let rise in warm place for about an hour.

Meanwhile, sauté bacon in large pan. Add onions and cook until translucent. Cool slightly. Whisk remaining ingredients together. Pour over onions and mix well.

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Roll out dough and use to line bottom, extending halfway up sides, of 10-inch springform pan (or jelly-roll pan, if amounts have been doubled). Pour filling over and distribute evenly. Bake 20 to 30 minutes or until crust is golden brown and filling set.

### *Lauchkuchen* variation

Recipe for crust, as above

3 large leeks, thinly sliced and washed thoroughly  
4 slices bacon, chopped  
1 1/2 cups whipping cream  
3 eggs  
1 cup shredded cheese, such as Emmentaler  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg

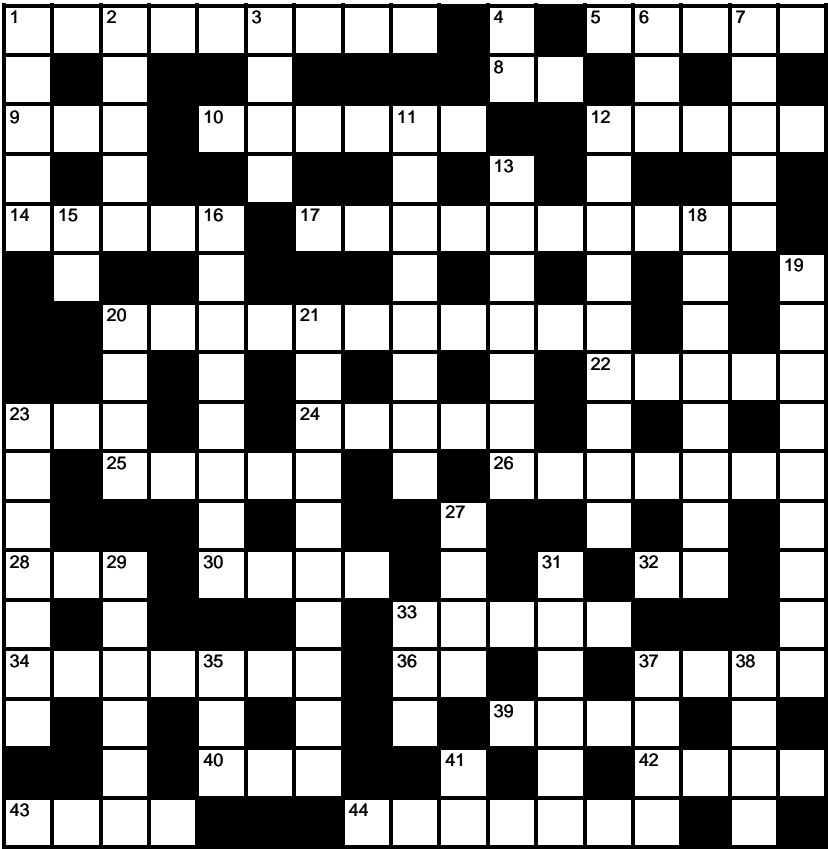
While dough is rising, sauté bacon in large pan. Add leeks. Cover and cook over low heat for about 10 minutes. Cool slightly. Whisk remaining ingredients together. Pour over leeks and mix well. Finish as for *Zwiebelkuchen*.

*If you have ever wondered why Germans do certain things, or if you have a favorite German dish and would like to recreate it at home, e-mail your questions and comments to [martina.bias@us.army.mil](mailto:martina.bias@us.army.mil).*



Crossword

As the final course for National Nutrition Month, sit down to this puzzle, chock-full of fruits, vegetables and a dash of sage advice



- Across
- 1 Wild salad green

5 Kind of cabbage (and lavish London hotel and theater)

8 “Tell \_\_\_ what you eat, and I shall tell you what you are.” – Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, French politician and gastronome

9 Slimming ‘70s soft drink

10 Vegetarian protein source

- 12 Indispensable Italian herb

14 Wheat variety

17 Southeast Asian treat

20 Persephone’s pitfall

22 More succulent

23 Picnics’ plague

24 Healthful oil

25 Chard’s sup- posed nationality

26 Roseate relation of asparagus

28 Slice

30 Smaller than dollops

32 “Having bowed to the inevitabil- ity of the dictum that we must eat to live, we should ignore \_\_\_ and live to eat.” – M.F.K. Fisher, American food writer

33 Broad beans

34 Greek goddess of agriculture

36 “Life itself \_\_\_ the proper binge.” – Julia Child, cookbook author

37 Gin-producing fruit

39 Leafy brassica

40 Coconut-opening method

42 Forms for corn

43 Parsnip, beet, et cetera

44 Grove
- Down
- 1 Key Iraqi crop

2 “Say, can thy \_\_\_ spirit stoop, to join the gormandizing troop, who find solace in the soup?” – Lewis Carroll, British author

3 Elongated allium

4 Time to “break fast” (abbr.)

6 Japanese diver for food (or pearls)

7 Celebrated French soup

11 Orange type in- cludes tangerines

12 Wintry squash

13 French for “kitchen garden”

- 15 Famously fertile valley in Italy

16 Tropical pulp for preserves

18 Deeply hued nightshade

19 Yellow plum

20 May be free or flesh-bound

21 Writ large in Beatrix Potter

23 Grounds for guacamole

27 Not pugilistic, yet may have black eyes

29 Beefsteak, e.g.

31 Papaw

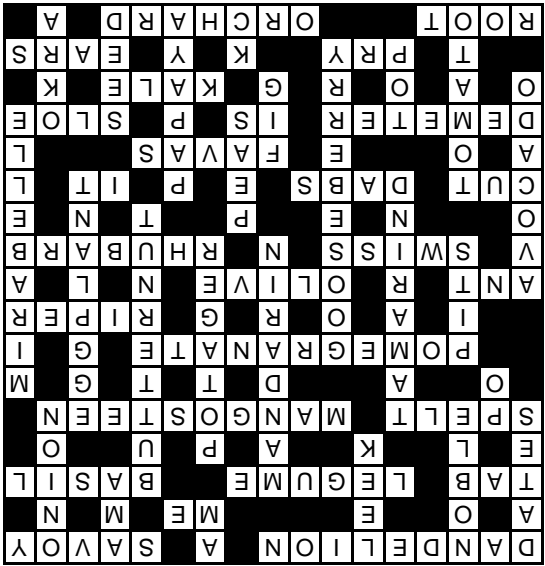
33 Ficus’ fruit or “a worthless trifle”

35 Carrot \_\_\_ (redhead’s handle)

37 Sow

38 Called “ladies’ fingers” in India

41 European measurement of food’s energy (abbr.)





now showing

Unless otherwise noted, the theaters in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and movies begin at 7 p.m. Because schedules are subject to change by local theaters, please telephone for verification.

<b>Grafenwoehr, Camp Aachen</b> (09641-83-6115)	
The theater does not regularly screen films. Tune in to AFN Bavaria for announcements or phone the number above to hear a recording of the latest schedule.	
<b>Grafenwoehr, Tower</b> (09641-83-1790)	
<b>Wednesday, March 30</b>	<i>Meet the Fockers</i> (PG-13)
<b>Thursday, March 31</b>	<i>Robots</i> (PG)
<b>Friday, April 1</b>	<i>The Pacifier</i> (PG)
<b>Saturday, April 2</b>	<i>The Ring Two</i> (PG-13)
<b>Sunday, April 3</b>	<i>Elektra</i> (PG-13)
<b>Wednesday, April 6</b>	<i>Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events</i> (PG)
<b>Thursday, April 7</b>	<i>White Noise</i> (PG-13)
<b>Friday, April 8</b>	<i>Robots</i> (PG)
<b>Saturday, April 9</b>	<i>Elektra</i> (PG-13)

<b>Sunday, April 10</b>	1 p.m. <i>Racing Stripes</i> (PG) <i>Hide and Seek</i> (R)
<b>Vilseck, Mike Jurkewicz</b> (09662-83-1790)	
<b>Tuesday, March 29</b>	<i>Robots</i> (PG)
<b>Wednesday, March 30</b>	<i>The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou</i> (R)
<b>Thursday, March 31</b>	<i>Man of the House</i> (PG-13)
<b>Friday, April 1</b>	<i>Robots</i> (PG)
<b>Saturday, April 2</b>	<i>Man of the House</i> (PG-13)
<b>Sunday, April 3</b>	1 p.m. <i>Fat Albert</i> (PG) <i>The Ring Two</i> (PG-13)
<b>Monday, April 4</b>	<i>Alone in the Dark</i> (R)
<b>Tuesday, April 5</b>	<i>Hide and Seek</i> (R)
<b>Wednesday, April 6</b>	<i>Flight of the Phoenix</i> (PG-13)
<b>Thursday, April 7</b>	<i>White Noise</i> (PG-13)
<b>Friday, April 8</b>	<i>The Pacifier</i> (PG)

<b>Saturday, April 9</b>	<i>Elektra</i> (PG-13)
<b>Sunday, April 10</b>	<i>Assault on Precinct 13</i> (R)
<b>Monday, April 11</b>	<i>The Wedding Date</i> (PG-13)
<b>Hohenfels, General Patton</b> (09472-83-1790)	
<b>Wednesday, March 30</b>	<i>Flight of the Phoenix</i> (PG-13)
<b>Thursday, March 31</b>	<i>The Pacifier</i> (PG)
<b>Friday, April 1</b>	<i>Meet the Fockers</i> (PG-13)
<b>Saturday, April 2</b>	<i>White Noise</i> (PG-13)
<b>Sunday, April 3</b>	1 p.m. <i>Meet the Fockers</i> (PG-13) <i>Elektra</i> (PG-13)
<b>Wednesday, April 6</b>	<i>Fat Albert</i> (PG)
<b>Thursday, April 7</b>	<i>Robots</i> (PG)
<b>Friday, April 8</b>	<i>The Ring Two</i> (PG-13)
<b>Saturday, April 9</b>	<i>Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous</i> (PG-13)
<b>Sunday, April 10</b>	<i>Alone in the Dark</i> (R)

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No mere flash in the pan, Sandra Bullock reprises her role for *Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous*.

**Alone in the Dark**  
Starring Christian Slater, Tara Reid, Stephen Dorff  
When a specialist in paranormal phenomena teams up with an anthropologist to investigate 19 disappearances, they encounter a supernatural enemy that threatens mankind.

**Assault on Precinct 13**  
Starring Ethan Hawke, Laurence Fishburne, Maria Bello  
In this update of the 1976 action thriller, a few cops defend one of Detroit's oldest precinct houses against a racketeering squad determined to free an imprisoned crime lord.

**Elektra**  
Starring Jennifer Garner, Goran Visnjic, Will Yun Lee  
From the pages of *Marvel Comics* comes Elektra, a mysterious action heroine who, after recovering from seemingly mortal wounds, takes her life in a new direction, aided by a blind martial-arts master.

**Fat Albert**  
Starring Kenan Thompson, Kyla Pratt, Dania Ramirez  
Actors bring the 1970s animated television series to life, as they come to the rescue of a latter-day fan who needs help finding friends.

**Flight of the Phoenix**  
Starring Dennis Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi, Tyrese Gibson  
In this remake of the Jimmy Stewart classic, survivors from a plane crash work to build a craft from the wreckage before they die of thirst in the Gobi Desert.

**Hide and Seek**  
Starring Robert De Niro, Dakota Fanning, Famke Janssen

The children's game becomes a nightmare when a young girl's imaginary friend turns out to be a malevolent flesh-and-blood presence.

**The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou**  
Starring Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Cate Blanchett  
A renowned oceanic explorer embarks on a journey beset by financial troubles and surrounded by his quirky crew and a hodgepodge of eccentrics.

**Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events**  
Starring Jim Carrey, Meryl Streep, Jude Law  
In this adaptation of the children's book series, three orphans are placed in the care of an evil genius and master of disguise who plots to steal his wards' vast fortune.

**Man of the House**  
Starring Tom Lee Jones, Vanessa Ferlito, Paula Garcés  
An aging police Ranger must protect a group of University of Texas cheerleaders who have witnessed a murder.

**Meet the Fockers**  
Starring Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman  
In this sequel to *Meet the Parents*, cultures clash when both families get together a few months before the wedding.

**Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous**  
Starring Sandra Bullock, Regina King, Enrique Murciano  
Having become a media celebrity, the FBI agent-cum-beauty queen leaves the talk show circuit to rescue two friends – the pageant winner and its emcee – both of whom have been kidnapped.



A crew of "Rusties" watches the humanoid happenings below in the futuristic fantasy *Robots*.



Naomi Watts returns for more frights in *The Ring Two*.

**The Pacifier**  
Starring Vin Diesel, Lauren Graham, Faith Ford  
A Navy SEAL who thinks himself fit for any mission is assigned to baby-sit the five children of a scientist killed while working on a top-secret government project.

**Racing Stripes**  
Starring Frankie Muniz, Michael Clarke Duncan, Jeff Foxworthy  
When a traveling circus loses a baby zebra, a horse farmer rescues the foal, which decides to race thoroughbreds.

**The Ring Two**  
Starring Naomi Watts, Daveigh Chase, David Dorfman  
This sequel finds the tortured investigative reporter now living in a small coastal community, but she soon realizes that the relentless cycle of terror and death has followed her.

**Robots**  
Animated  
In this wonderfully clanky world populated solely by mechanical beings, a young inventor who dreams of making the world a better place takes on a corporate tyrant.

**The Wedding Date**  
Starring Debra Messing, Dermot Mulroney, Jack Davenport  
When a woman hires someone to play her boyfriend for the wedding of her younger sister to her ex-flame, she finds herself attracted to her escort.

**White Noise**  
Starring Michael Keaton, Deborah Kara Unger, Chandra West  
A man's peaceful existence is shattered when, soon after his wife's death, a stranger informs him that he has been receiving messages from her.